

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method for transmitting transport signals for different hierarchical levels, wherein lower level transport signals can be inserted into upper level transport signals, and all the transport signals have the same pulse frame including an optical channel overhead. The error rate is significantly reduced by means of forward error correction. Instead of transport signals of a lower hierarchy, tributary signals are inserted directly into the pulse frames of the transport signals of a higher hierarchy, and frequency matching is effected by stuffing.